

Czech president vote delayed

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia's parliament Tuesday delayed choosing a successor to President Gustav Husak, but one member, amid cheers from the assembly, urged the group to vote in playwright Vaclav Havel. The federal assembly took the action after the Communist caucus controlling the body said members should relinquish their constitutional duty and let the voters decide directly. But Stanislav Husak, a member of the People's Party, has broken with the Communists, denouncing the proposal as a delaying tactic. "Don't you think this can be the tactics of delay which may serve particular interests?" he asked. "This country quickly needs a president of respected moral quality. I know of one. I propose Vaclav Havel," Husak added. The acting assembly chairman and Socialist Party leader, Bohuslav Kacera, refused to allow the Communists to change a set legislative motion and instead their plan for the direct election be submitted to a legislative committee. The 350-member assembly, with a 242 Communist majority, is constitutionally required to elect a new president by Dec. 24 to replace hardline Husak who stepped down Sunday.



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King, N. Yemen leader discuss peace efforts, Lebanon, ACC issues

By Marwan M. Shashin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh began talks here Tuesday on inter-Arab affairs, issues related to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and other matters of mutual interest as well as efforts under way to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese problem.

A North Yemeni official said

the King and President Saleh reviewed cooperation among the four ACC countries — Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan

and means to promote coordination among them.

The official confirmed that the King and Saleh were to discuss the issue of South Yemen's possible entry to the ACC, which has left its door open for other Arab states to join in. The possibility of South Yemen entering the council was boosted with the agreement last month between the two Yemenis on a reunification formula.

In an arrival statement at Marjan airport, where he was received with a state welcome ceremony headed by the King and high-ranking officials, President Saleh said he was "delighted to be in Jordan at the invitation of King Hussein for consultations on issues of mutual concern to the two countries," the Jordan News

Agency, Petra, reported.

Saleh was also quoted as saying that his talks with King Hussein would cover the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes. He said the recent events had opened the door of East-West detente and that these events had strengthened world peace and security. He said the talks would also cover the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

The president said he would brief the King on measures adopted by the two Yemenis for reunification.

The North Yemeni president, who is on his second trip to Jordan this year, said he followed the Jordanian parliamentary elections held last month with great interest and pride, adding that he appreciated the return of the legislative body to the Jordanian scene and commended the formation of the new government.

Saleh is accompanied by a 24-member delegation, which included Deputy Prime Minister Mubarak, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Speaker and members of National Consultancy Council (Shura), the minister of health and sports, the head of committee for foreign affairs of the Shura, and the head of the health and welfare committee of the

Shura.

Abdo Bourji, chief press officer of the delegation accompanying the North Yemeni president, said Saleh was returning two visits paid to Sanaa by King Hussein.

The King and President Saleh held a second round of talks Tuesday evening attended by senior officials from both sides. On the King's right are Prime Minister



His Majesty King Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh hold a meeting Tuesday evening attended by senior officials from

both sides. On the King's right are Prime Minister

Minister Badran and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (Petra photo)

Journalists association pays tribute to King's initiatives

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) has expressed pride of the democratic procedures witnessed in Jordan in this stage through holding free elections and moves that may result in lifting martial laws.

In a cable sent to His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday, the JPA emphasised that the government's decision to reverse the Economic Security Committee's (ESC) decision to take over the Kingdom's daily newspapers was the beginning of a new era in the history of the Jordanian press.

Following is the full text of the cable:

The Jordan Press Association is honoured to express loyalty and allegiance to Your Majesty and to voice deep appreciation and gratitude for your care for

the Jordanian press and for your endeavours to make it assume its active role in serving Jordan, its citizens and the causes of the Arab Nation.

As Jordan is entering a new stage in its modern history, a stage which is distinguished by the climate of tolerance and openness and for the spirit of democracy under Your Majesty's directives, the JPA council likes to express its pride over the democratic procedures that Your Majesty opened at this stage by holding free and clean elections and launching moves towards lifting martial law.

We promise Your Majesty to be honest on the sanctity of the word in serving our national issues and to perform our mission and deal with the democratic formula with great care and responsibility, with the interest of Jordan and the Arab Nation above any other consideration.

King: Children's needs should be world priority

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called for international endorsement of children's needs as a top priority item in the political agenda and reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to the health, welfare and aspirations of all world children.

The King, in a televised message marking the occasion of the release of the 1989 State of the World's Children Report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), lauded the absence of a unanimous world decision to make use of health policies and technologies to save the lives of children and mothers and underlined the fact that the situation was not any easier now, in light of the economic burdens shouldered by Third World countries.

Describing the situation as posing as "real moral challenge," the King called for mobilisation of the "necessary political will" towards adopting action to protect the world's children.

The 1989 State of the World's Children Report was released worldwide Tuesday. In Amman, it was launched by UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Director Richard Reid at a press conference.

In an opening statement, Reid summed up the world situation of

children as bright on the one side since the international detente and shifting focus from regional conflicts meant diversion of military allocations to people's welfare, but grim on the other since many Third World countries are today straining under the burden of external debts.

The global economic situation, Reid said, poses "severe hazards and setbacks and hard times for children all around the world." He said every family in the Third World was deprived of an average of \$400 every year in national debt repayment or servicing. This means the family deprived of good food and nutrition and reasonable health services.

At the same time, there is also an increasing trend to shift the issue of children to the "very centre of the national agenda," he noted and referred to a planned "world summit for children" in September 1990 which is expected to address some of the fundamental issues involved.

Reid expressed hope that the summit would produce concrete action, in terms of alleviation of the economic burden of debtor states, and "dedicated commitment and action" by individual states to give the attention that the children and their health deserve.

He explained that one of the expectations attached to the summit was decisions by creditor na-

tions to write off some of the debts of debtor states with understanding that the debtors would be using the reprieved amount to safeguard the lives and health of their children.

"UNICEF is pinning a lot on the world summit," which is expected to be attended by at least 50 heads of state, Reid said.

He paid tribute to the message issued by King Hussein Tuesday and described it as "the embodiment of the political will" that is necessary to protect future generations.

Following is the full text of the King's message:

"At a time when we stand at the threshold of the last decade of the 20th century, we find ourselves face to face with one of the most dangerous crossroads that contemporary history has ever encountered. The lives and welfare of hundreds of millions of men, women and children are at stake because of the complex global problems facing them, such as indebtedness, environmental degradation, economic restructuring and the frenzied arms race.

"The policies to be adopted by individual countries or groupings of countries during the next decade will shape our responses to the problems facing half the world's population. These policies will determine whether half the population on our planet will

be exposed to further sufferings as a result of high infant mortality rates (IMR), malnutrition, semi-literacy, epidemics and early death, or will be able to prevent this deterioration, whereby everybody will have access to health services, education opportunities and a decent productive life.

"The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today launched an extremely important publication which helps us identify the alternatives, we, as human beings living on this planet with its limited resources, should opt for.

"The 1990 State of the World's Children Report, issued by the Amman-based UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa, and distributed simultaneously worldwide, is both a far-sighted and a binding document. The report should be read thoroughly and attentively, not just by the medical cadres or officials, but also by all individuals and institutions involved in formulating general policies or those who can influence such policies.

"In line with the world's expectations attached to UNICEF, the report highlights a number of major global problems which should be addressed if an end is sought to the preventable death of millions of children every year.

UNICEF's report enhances

hopes that life will prevail over death, logic and reason over despair. The last decade has proved that it is possible to save millions of lives through the adoption of cost-effective health policies such as immunisation, oral rehydration therapy, breastfeeding and birth spacing.

"In this regard, I am pleased to point out that our region is at the forefront of world countries, applying health policies capable of reducing IMR. These policies and technologies have been tested and found effective in protecting the lives of children and advancing their normal growth. We are fully aware of the methods that can save the lives of thousands of children every day throughout the world. However, the world has not so far taken a unanimous decision on putting into practice this knowledge of saving the lives of children and mothers and improving their health and welfare.

"In fact the problem has never been harder than it is now, because of the economic challenge facing Third World countries.

These challenges take the form of increasing indebtedness, the cost of debt service, flow of capital, slackening of savings and investments, in addition to the constraints of hard currencies and their exchange rates and the onerous restructuring of economic situations.

"With this in mind, the focus of UNICEF's report is on giving children the first call among concerns and preoccupations of society. For normal and practical needs should top the political agenda of global political actions.

Their needs should be given priority where a nation's resources or policies are concerned.

In this connection, we take part

in recent world developments including the U.N. General Assembly meeting last month on the

Convention on the Rights of the Child and the world summit for children to be held in 1990.

UNICEF's report does not

only present scientific facts about the measures that can save children's lives, but also confronts us once again with a real moral challenge. This challenge lies in our ability to mobilise the necessary political will and to translate the sympathy and genuine feelings into proper and effective policies for saving children's lives.

While congratulating UNICEF and the United Nations on this innovative work which we endorse with optimism, we wish them every success in their endeavours. Once again we reiterate our commitment to the health, welfare and aspirations of all the world's children."

After calling in a speech in West Berlin for a new Europe, Baker matched words with deeds by driving over the Glienicke Bridge, scene of many cold war spy swaps, for a one-hour meeting with East Germany's new reformist prime minister.

He told journalists later: "We talked at quite some length about the importance of this reform effort moving forward in a peaceful and stable way. That as much as anything else represents the political signal that we wanted to send by being here today."

Later, Yevtushenko called the vote a "noble defeat" in light of the fact that most deputies are party members. "We got 839 votes," Yevtushenko said. "I didn't expect that."

The Baltic Republic of Lithuania last week became the first of the Soviet Union's 15 republics to strike a similar provision from its own constitution, replacing it with one allowing a multiparty system. Legislators there ordered that a law be written in 45 days outlining how other political parties will be registered.

In East Europe, Gorbachev's

guiding force" in Soviet society, saying its removal would do no harm to the organisation's authority.

"I am not a member of the party, but I think party members should support this motion," he said. "The authority of the party cannot be set down in a single paragraph but must be proven in deeds every day."

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Mubarak in Libya for talks with Qadhafi

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Libya's Mediterranean town of Sirta Tuesday for talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the government's Middle East News Agency reported.

It was their fourth meeting this year and the third in less than two months as they sought to restore normalcy to the often-turbulent relationship between the North African neighbours for almost 17 years.

The state-run news agency said Qadhafi greeted Mubarak with an embrace and accorded him full honours at Sirta Airport, complete with a 21-gun salute. Sirta is about 400 kilometres east of Libya's capital Tripoli.

None of the four meetings has been in either national capital. Qadhafi has vowed not to visit Cairo so long as an Israeli flag flies here, as it does over the only Israeli embassy in the Arab World. Diplomatic reciprocity would seem to preclude a Mubarak visit to Qadhafi's capital so long as the Libyan leader refuses to visit Cairo.

Mubarak was accompanied on the one-day visit by top officials including the ministers of foreign affairs, planning, agriculture, transport, industry and oil.

Egyptian officials said the composition of the delegation indicated Mubarak and Qadhafi planned talks on economic cooperation, including possible joint projects in agriculture, industry and oil exploration. They reached broad agreement on such cooperation in summit talks last October.

The Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement began last May when Mubarak and Qadhafi met during an Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco. The two countries restored direct air links and reopened their borders the following month.

The borders had been closed since the two countries fought a five-day war in July 1977 after a series of bombings in Egypt that Cairo blamed on Libya.

Qadhafi fell out with Egypt in 1972 when then-President Anwar Sadat rejected his proposal for immediate merger of the countries.

The crisis deepened with Qadhafi's denunciation of Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel. Libya was among 17 Arab states that severed diplomatic ties with Cairo over the treaty.

Mubarak and Qadhafi followed up their patchup in May with a second meeting on Oct. 16 at Egypt's Mediterranean city of Mersa Matruh. The following day, they had another session at Libya's port of Tibruk.

Minbar telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Monday and agreed air links should be resumed between Cairo and Damascus.

"It's all part of the drawn-out process of getting back into the Arab mainstream after Egypt's peace treaty with Israel," one diplomat said. Libya and Syria are the only two Arab states still to resume formal relations with Egypt, broken when the treaty was signed in 1979.

But an immediate aim would be to help quieten radical Palestinians hosted by Libya and Syria who oppose PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's attempts to enter a dialogue with Israel through Egyptian mediation.

Egypt has in principle accepted a five-point formula for Israeli-Palestinian talks put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, but Arafat is known to be facing resistance within the Palestine Liberation Organisation to any further compromise with Israel.

Meanwhile the Soviet ambassador to Cairo said Mubarak is going to Moscow in the first half of next year. It will be his first visit to the Soviet Union since undergoing military training there as a young air force officer.

Ambassador Gennady Zhuravlev told reporters the agenda will include relations between the former close allies as well as international issues.

Zhuravlev, who spoke after briefing Foreign Minister Esmat 423

Abdul Meguid on this month's summit meeting of U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, gave no date for Mubarak's trip. The ambassador's comments were distributed by the Middle East News Agency.

Egyptian-Soviet relations were very close in the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s under the late President Gamal Abdal Nasser. He bitterly turned away from the West in 1956 after the United States reneged on a promise to build the Aswan High Dam, and Britain and France joined with Israel in a brief war seeking to retake the Suez Canal after Nasser nationalised it.

But Cairo's relations with Moscow soured under Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, largely because the Kremlin refused to support Sadat's plans to rekindle the simmering Middle East war.

In 1972 Sadat ended Moscow's "special relationship" and expelled 15,000 Soviet military personnel in anger after the Kremlin refused to supply Egypt the arms Sadat wanted for his war the next year. He caught Israel by surprise and masterminded the best Arab performance against the Jewish state in four wars since 1948.

Afterwards, Sadat developed and Mubarak, his successor, nurtured close ties with the United States. Washington now provides Egypt \$2.3 billion in economic and military aid annually as a reward for Sadat's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the only one in the Arab World.

But Mubarak, a Moscow-trained hero of the 1973 war, started a slow process of mending relations with the Soviet Union when he came to power in 1981 after extremists assassinated Sadat.

Diplomatic ties were resumed at ambassadorial level in 1984, and relations have remained good but not in the same extremely close category as under Nasser.

Abdul Meguid visited Moscow in May, 1988, the highest-ranking Egyptian in the Soviet capital since the 1970s break. His Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze came to Cairo last February.

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U.N. adopts resolution on Sahara

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Amid sporadic fighting in the Western Sahara, the U.N. General Assembly has adopted by consensus a resolution appealing to Morocco and the Polisario Front to cooperate in efforts to solve the conflict.

The resolution, which was passed unanimously for the first time in years, also hoped for a resumption of direct talks between King Hassan of Morocco and a high-level Polisario delegation, last held in January.

Morocco, which has ruled the former Spanish territory since 1976, is battling the Polisario to guerrillas who have proclaimed their own Saharan Arab Democratic Republic.

Both sides have agreed in principle that a referendum, supervised by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity, should be held to enable the population to choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

However, details of the referendum have not been worked out and the Polisario, insists that Moroccan troops and administrators must be withdrawn before any voting.

Morocco on Dec. 2 said it was ready to stay in the Sahara indefinitely if the United Nations did not organise a referendum within two years.

After a lull in the fighting for about a year, the Polisario resumed hostilities in October and November, saying Morocco refused to resume direct talks to settle details of the U.N. peace plan.

The resolution also stresses the importance of the August 1988 agreement on a referendum and welcomes the efforts of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, chairman

of the OAU, to promote a settlement.

It urges them to intensify efforts to resolve remaining problems and clear the way for a referendum "without administrative or military constraints."

In a written statement sent to Reuters, 12 Moroccan legislators from Western Sahara said Perez de Cuellar must implement an August 1988 U.N.-mediated ceasefire, broken recently by sporadic fighting.

"The ceasefire is the responsibility only of the U.N. secretary general who will decide the timing and draw up the details of implementation," the statement said.

The Moroccan legislators accused the guerrillas of obstructing U.N. peace efforts. "Cooperation with the U.N. is the best way to show goodwill instead of fueling the issue and trying to play with fire," their statement said.

Speaking shortly after U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar addressed the group and left the room, she said: "I never understood why the secretary general failed to assign either

Day meeting, expressed outrage at her husband's kidnappers, the world community and the United Nations.

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Meeting to analyse changes in society

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day symposium dealing with changes in the family throughout the developing nations will start here on Dec. 16 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with the participation of more than 60 delegates, half of them from Jordan.

The symposium, organised by the Jordanian Voluntary Organisation Community Centres in Amman in cooperation with the Kourad Adenauer Foundation from West Germany will look into the social difficulties jeopardising the family structure as well as its traditional functions.

The organisers issued a statement noting that many Third World nations are not prepared to confront such changes in the family, which come about as a result of social politics and there is little public discussion about the actual situation of society.

They said that planning for the future of the society in the developing world is still not forthcoming and it is difficult for governmental decision-makers to face the new demands made on the state of society.

They noted that the symposium is being organised to help analyse this change in society and its institutions, especially in the family, and for women to describe the actual state of affairs and to make suggestions for possible solutions.

The participants, who will come from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, in addition to Jordan are all sociologists or scholars.

Some specialists from Palestinian universities are also expected to attend the meetings.

They said that there will be representatives also from Germany, Denmark and Turkey as well as a number of Jordanian organisations and voluntary societies.

Hamdan calls for increased use of computers in schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday opened a meeting by Ministry of Education directors in various provinces and called for increased use of computers in schools.

"To carry out the resolutions and recommendations of the first national educational conference of 1987, the ministry has to introduce new methods and techniques to upgrade and improve the quality of education in the Kingdom," Hamdan said at the meeting which was also attended by senior ministry officials.

The educational modernisation programme, Hamdan said, requires the use of computers for educational purposes in Jordanian schools and on a wide scale with the purpose of coping with technological development in the

modern world.

"The computer is a very useful instrument in all economic, scientific and social fields, and students ought to be oriented on its use to improve the quality of their work and their future life," the minister continued.

According to Ministry of Education officials computer science was introduced in secondary schools in Jordan during the 1984-85 scholastic year, when only two schools acquired them.

But, they said, at present 163 schools have been supplied by computer sets for teaching purposes.

Under an agreement with the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Education has imported British computers for which specialists were brought into the country to train the local staff.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

LAWZI CONGRATULATES IRAQ: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday sent a cable to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein congratulating Iraq for its success in launching a rocket capable of carrying a satellite. Lawzi lauded the development attained by the Iraqi military industries. Also Tuesday the speaker called the House's education, social development and health committees to a meeting Thursday at 10:30 to discuss the committees' duties. (Petra)

ARAR RECEIVES FRENCH ENVOY: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar received in his office Tuesday French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Boushard who congratulated Arar on being elected as speaker. Arar also received Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Hassan Ibrahim. (Petra)

YOUTH ART EXHIBITION: The Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Arriengod Tuesday opened the Youth Art Exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The exhibition includes 43 oil and watercolour paintings that depict nature and national heritage. The exhibition will continue until the end of December. (Petra)

STUDENTS VISIT AMMAN MUNICIPALITY: Students from the military wing of Mu'ta University, near Karak, visited Greater Amman Municipality Tuesday an met with Mayor Ali Salehman. The mayor briefed the visitors on the municipality's plans and programmes to expand and improve municipal services to the ever growing population of the capital. The students later toured a number of municipality projects. (Petra)

CHINESE ENVOY VISITS UNIVERSITY: The cultural attaché at the Chinese embassy called at the University of Jordan Tuesday and met with University President Mahmoud Al Samra. They discussed ways to promote educational cooperation between Chinese and Jordanian universities. (Petra)

EXHIBITION: An exhibition featuring Jordanian-Palestinian culture was opened at the University of Jordan Tuesday. The exhibition, which will last seven days, depicts various aspects of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. (Petra)

ARAB YOUTH MINISTERS TO MEET: Jordan will take part in the sixth technical committee meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, which will start in Tunis Wednesday. Representing Jordan to the five-day meetings will be an official delegation, headed by Youth Ministry Secretary General Asem Ghosheh, who left for Tunis Tuesday. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

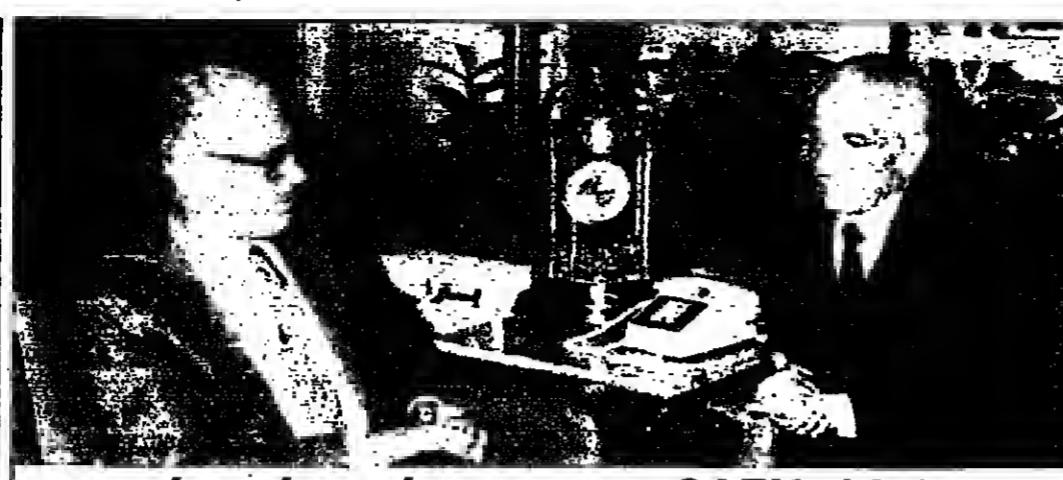
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasl Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings and photographs on the Palestinian intifada at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Khaled Maazi at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Akram Haddad and Lebanese artist Fatima Hussein at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition on the Great Arab Revolt which includes photos, maps and documents at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An art exhibition marking the second anniversary of the intifada at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ★ A book exhibition at Jordan University of Science and Technology.
- ★ The youths art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photographs showing the development of electric energy industry in the Soviet Union at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ A musical revue entitled *Ok Coward* at Hotel Jordan International.



Lawzi receives envoys, CEAU chief

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Tuesday received the West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels, who called at the House to extend congratulations to Lawzi on his appointment as Speaker. Also

Tuesday, Lawzi received congratulations from the United Arab Emirates Ambassador Ahmad Jassim Ali and Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Hassan Ibrahim. (Petra)

Amman demonstrations voice resounding support for intifada

By Sana Atiyeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In light of the winds of democratisation sweeping Jordan, the past few days the streets of Amman witnessed an uncommon sight — demonstrations supporting the Palestinian intifada.

As the intifada entered its third year this week, public rallies and festivities filled the halls of the Professional Association Complex (PAC), the embassy of the State of Palestine and other private clubs in Amman. After almost every gathering, people, mostly youth, took to the streets shouting anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans.

"America is the head of the snake," and "PLO, Israel no," were the most common slogans shouted by the crowds of people, referring to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the American support for Israel.

The crowd observed one minute of silence for the martyrs of the intifada. Every so often, the crowd would sit down in the street to hear speeches and nationalist poems. Majed Al Majali stood among the demonstrators and enthusiastically recited poems paying tribute to the oppressed, and received cheers and claps. One middle-aged woman was so overwhelmed by the phrases; that she got up and donated her expensive-looking ring to support the intifada.

Another young man gave a speech hailing the intifada and the Palestinians who have "sacrificed blood for the cause of independence," and urged the continuation of peaceful marches.

"When a crowd as this is allowed to demonstrate in late hours in these streets, it is democracy," he said. "We deserve this democracy, and we must preserve it. We must continue to express solidarity in this manner because Palestinians and Jordanians are one people, one family."

The demonstrators stopped in front of the Palestine Hospital to cheer Palestinians injured in the intifada being treated at the hospital.

A strong sense of unity was evident among the people as they spoke enthusiastically of how they tracked the demonstration at this or that point and joined in. Some of the people, especially women — carrying babies — befriended each other.

The demonstration, like the others during the week, was not preorganised and no one person or party was in charge.

When the crowd milled around the PAC, half of the people wanted to march to the American embassy, but were outvoted because, as one of the young participants told the Jordan Times, "when we march to

the American embassy, we want to protest against their support for Israel. Therefore, we have to be more organised and do it during the day during the embassy's working hours. It will be more effective."

But the anti-American slogans were clear during the march, criticising the U.S. support for Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"No to the Baker plan, no to Shamir. Baker, out, out, the people decided revolution," they shouted, adding that "we want peace on our own terms."

"We are refugees, and we will return," they chanted.

Early this week, the Palestine embassy held a rally in support of the intifada. Over 1,000 people — among them high-ranking PLO officials, ambassadors, members of the Lower and Upper House of Parliament, prominent diplomats and Jordanian personalities — heard speeches by Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar, North Yemeni Ambassador Ali Abu Lathoom, and Palestinian lawyer Ibrahim Bakr, who was expelled from the occupied territories by the occupation authorities.

The crowd cheered the speakers as they expressed solidarity and support for the intifada, and a group of young men in the back of the hall chanted pro-Palestinian slogans.

A group of mostly young people gathered outside the embassy after the rally and began demonstrating and marching towards the Hussein refugee camp, gathering more people with them as they entered the camp.

The following evening, two separate rallies were held: one was at the RAC and deputies Laith Shbelat and Mansour Murad, Doctors Association President Mamdouh Al Abadi and Agricultural Engineers Association President Tarek Al Tal addressed the gathering.

The other rally was held at the Hussein refugee camp. Deputies Taher Al Massri, Deeb Marji, Bassam Haddad and Sheikh Yacoub Qarash had the entire crowd in the hall cheering and clapping.

At the end of the two rallies, crowds again gathered in the streets and demonstrated. The march from the PAC, which gathered around 200 people, continued until the Hussein refugee camp, where the two demonstrations met and ended peacefully around midnight.

The person has to show up in person and present a document to prove his identity in order to go along with the routine procedures of reclaiming the passport.

Watching the reactions of individuals who just got their passports back is quite something. A young man impulsively kissed it and enthusiastically invited his accompanying friend to a celebration that evening.

Another young man puffed a long sigh of relief and quickly hid his passport in the inside of his jacket, as if he was afraid that the counter-clerk might change his mind and take it back up.

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Abdul Rahman Taleb joined in to recite his story: "My passport was impounded in 1982 after I came back from Lebanon during the 1982 war there. I was detained for 26 months in the Mahata Prison without being tried because of my affiliation to the DFLP."

Taleb was released in 1984 and subsequently, by his own admission, participated in what he describes as "popular action" among the union of workers in the field of medical services.

"We were demanding freedoms,

Seminar opens on role of private sector in Jordan's energy projects

15% energy production from Rishesh Gas Fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Natural gas produced at Al Rishesh Fields, near the Iraqi borders, has contributed by at least 15 per cent to the total energy and electricity production in the Kingdom, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher announced Tuesday.

The gas has been used to turn turbines and generate electricity, thus saving the country some \$20 million worth of alternate energy resources for the electricity generating process, the minister said in an address to the opening session of a seminar on the role of the private sector in energy projects in the Kingdom.

The Jordanian government, Taher noted, has also been giving increasing attention to the exploitation of the oil-shale found in abundance in the Kingdom, despite the high cost of producing energy from the rock.

The minister told the two-day meeting that Jordan expects some \$300 million to be invested in electric energy projects in the Kingdom between 1990 and the end of the century.

Working papers dealing with

electricity energy production presented by delegates representing the World Bank, the United States, Pakistan, Malaysia, the Philippines and Turkey will be reviewed by the participants from Arab, Asian and European countries who are taking part in the meeting according to Mr. Mohammad Saeed Arafa, director general of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) which organised the meeting.

Arafa said he will present a working paper reviewing electricity production in the Kingdom, plans for investments in electricity projects in the coming stage and main problems facing JEA.

Chief JEA Engineer Mohammad Azzam said at the meeting that the seminar was organised in the light of a feasibility study on the exploitation of shale in Rishesh Fields where the gas is used to generate electricity.

The study was prepared by JEA in cooperation with a number of world consultancy firms and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Azzam pointed out.

He told the meeting that various tests on burning oil shale to produce electricity conducted in West Germany and other countries proved to be feasible although the cost of setting up power stations based on shale was almost double that of ordinary power stations run by oil fuel.

Azzam said JEA welcomes any European offer to set up an experimental station for burning shale to generate electricity.

He said the current meeting will review expertise and experiments in developing nations and contributions to power generation.

Jordan has been producing oil shale in great quantities at the Lajun area, conducting tests with the help of West German companies.

JEA had announced that the transfer of turbines to the Rishesh Fields where the gas is used to generate electricity.

Citizens rejoice after getting their impounded passports

By Suhaib Obeidat

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Acting upon directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein to return all impounded passports and allow renewal of others, the Department of Passports and Civil Registration until midday Tuesday returned 125 passports out of a total of 2,714, according to director general of the department Issa Al Omari.

"The total number of impounded passports does not exceed 2,714, contrary to some false claims which, at one point, put the figure at 14,000," Omari told the Jordan Times.

According to Omari, the procedures of returning the confiscated passports and those whose renewals were frozen have been simplified. The process begins with an application by the citizen to the department, which in turn retrieves the concerned file from the filing section. Then after a series of bureaucratic procedures, the passport is returned to its original holder. In the case where the passport has expired, the holder has to go through the regular procedures of renewal.

"Now, even after I received my passport, I can't believe I can work and travel just like any other citizen," he sounded sceptical, apparently still dazed by the sudden prospect of travelling abroad.

"I am planning to travel as soon as possible, but I am coming back of course," he declared. "This country needs us and our efforts to help out through these difficult times."

"We will never leave our dear country despite the fact that it is burdened with debts and some political issues. My colleagues and I are going to do our best to serve our country for delay, if this occurs," he said.

In order to facilitate the matter, the department has extended its office hours by two hours to 4 p.m. "to make it more convenient for those who have to come from distant parts of the Kingdom," Omari said.

However, Omari concedes, "we expect a number of passports not to be claimed. The holder may either be outside the country or simply lost interest in obtaining the document."

Downstairs, a number of men and a couple of women crowded in front of a counter with a high class partition. Passports were piled up and a clerk was shouting the names of people; the concerned person steps forward and collects the green-cover document, which represents a lifeline for many who may not have been able to take up job offers outside the country.

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Listening to the stories of the "vanishing" passports is even more intriguing. In most cases, the stories

involve "total innocence" and "complete ignorance" of the circumstances that led the confiscation of the passport.

Mohammad Daoud Al Raheem, who reclaimed his passport Tuesday after the authorities impounded it five years ago, said: "I was first arrested in 1981 because I participated in a students' movement in one of the community colleges where I studied to study computer science," Al Raheem said.

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All the world loves a child

DECEMBER 13 marked the day when James Grant, the executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) presented his annual report to the international community on the state of the world's children in which he paid homage and tribute to all the great and outstanding deeds that were rendered in the service of children, their survival, welfare and protection, whether through his specialised agency or through other international, regional or local endeavours. What is even more important in the report is the sounding of the alarm about all the essential and urgent actions and measures that still need to be done for children everywhere.

As the report aptly reminded mankind that "all the world loves a child," it sadly and ominously reminded everyone that the rights and welfare of many millions of children are being systematically violated in the most brutal and inhuman ways by the adult population of the world itself. The report itself is but a chronicle of untold abuses. Children are being exploited, abducted, bought and sold and enlisted in armies and rebel movements. Hundreds of millions of children are still being subjected to all of this till this very late hour. This long and depressing catalogue of suffering and deprivation that so many children of the world are being subjected to is a living testimony that mankind is still living in the darkest of ages. To mention only a few afflictions that befall so many children of the world, malnutrition, ill health and disease and the lack of rudimentary education appear to top the long list of the agonies that many children are suffering from. The tragedy of these children are compounded by the fact that world is investing more than ever on armament, destruction of the environment and technological and industrial pursuits while shoving to the background the cries and tears, and even the lives, of so many of the loved little ones.

To sum up, the tragic story of millions and millions of children in the four corners of the world — including the developed regions of the world — the killing of children intentionally or due to wanton negligence or indifference or allowing, tolerating or turning a blind eye to the many abuses, exploitations or deprivations, whether of education, nutrition or immunisation that children are subjected to is tantamount to killing life per se in its purest and innocent essence.

That is why no matter how great and outstanding are the achievements made for the cause of children, real improvement in the life and welfare of affected children cannot be attained until the phenomenon of perestroika takes deep root in the minds, souls and hearts of adult humans. It is not only the material things that children need, whether in the form of food and shelter, medicine or education, but rather the positive emotions and healthy affections of the grown-ups. Without proper and balanced emotional nutrition and without love and affectionate caring, affected children would continue to be deprived even when their hunger for food and education has been satisfied and their health has been protected and taken care of, and abuse and exploitation have ended. If there is a singular omission in the report of UNICEF it is the absence of enough reference to the psychological and emotional needs of affected children.

Still, what UNICEF through its devoted leader James Grant or, has done to the children of the world is so miraculous. Their persistence, devotion and perseverance have awakened the consciousness of governments and peoples of the world to the plight of children everywhere. This was best summarised by His Majesty King Hussein's words of tribute to UNICEF when he said Tuesday that the report of Mr. Grant to the nations of the world riveted mankind's hope and aspiration that life will triumph over death and hope over despair. What better tribute can one pay to the leaders and staff of UNICEF than to recall these Royal words on the occasion of the submission of the report to the Jordanian government.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AJ Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday hailed a decision by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to scrap a former decision by the economic security committee of Aug. 24, 1988 and reinstated the former boards of the three Arabic dailies. The paper said that the decision is bound to boost the government's popularity which, the paper said, is nation-wide now, and gaining momentum. The paper said that the return of the former boards, management and editors would pave the way for a new era for the Jordanian press and would help strengthen the stand of the Jordanian journalists, giving them more freedoms as promised by King Hussein in his letter of designation to the government. The paper said that AJ Ra'i will continue to serve as a free forum for all constructive action and will confront all forms of regionalism, sectarianism and terrorism. The paper pledged to adopt a responsible stand which is bound to contribute most positively towards the ongoing process of construction and development.

A columnist in AJ Ra'i daily on Tuesday bails the creation of a pan-Arab front for the support of the Palestinian intifada and says that the Baghdad-based front should encompass all groups regardless of their political or religious affiliations. Mahmoud Rimawi notes that the creation of the front came late, after the lapse of two years of intifada life, but he points out that its presence is bound to boost the Palestinian people's resistance activity and strengthen the PLO's stand and struggle. The writer says that the front which groups representatives of various Arab countries ought to embark immediately on its task and try by all possible means to enlarge its base by including various Arab groups and by transcending all ideological differences that might linger among the Arab states.

War and peace

By Shimon Peres

NEITHER RUSSIA nor Hungary, nor Poland nor Czechoslovakia has brought about the global metamorphosis that is taking place today. It is the changes that have taken place in the world as a whole that have spurred developments in those countries. It was these changes, too, that have brought to the fore leaders like Mikhail Gorbachev and Lech Wałęsa. These are people who understood the challenge of transition even before they took the command.

What, then, are these major changes that have come about in our time that have brought about the transition in global and regional politics?

First and foremost, there has been a change in the nature of information, and in the control of information. The strength of regimes had traditionally been built on the ability to gather information and control its distribution or non-distribution to the people.

Even 20 years ago, it was clear that with the introduction and development of radio, television, video, computers, and satellites, it would no longer be possible to preserve the traditional distinction between those who accumulate knowledge and those who disseminate it. This prediction was realised far more quickly than anyone had expected. In fact, since the rise of the personal computer, every household has had access to more information than any government had at the beginning of this century. Decentralisation of knowledge has superseded dependence on hardware. And if knowledge is power, then power has become decentralised too.

Modern communications are not discovered in gold mines; they were invented by man.

The major source of wealth now lies not in an abundance of nature's treasures but in human resources. It is not what man can extract from the ground but that which he can produce from himself which determines wealth or poverty.

Modern economics are also

built more on software than on hardware. It depends on global competition more than on local defence.

Information now resembles air; it moves everywhere, under all circumstances and at all times. It has no borders. It makes a mockery of propaganda, because people in any given country can compare their lives with those of people elsewhere. The comparison is done with the aid of the written word, voice and image, and the eye, the ear and the mind cannot all be taken in indefinitely.

Indeed, it is television that has destroyed communism — and its myth. While television is able to create legends, it can also destroy them. It creates, consciously or unconsciously, visual distinctions between myth and reality.

The East Germans saw West German supermarkets and asked themselves how Germans in one part of the country could enjoy shops crammed with good things, while their own shelves were bare.

The Russians asked themselves why their country, almost 70 times the size of Japan, lags so far behind the Japanese.

Unless all the means of communication are destroyed or men are denied the power of sight, it will be impossible to go back to totalitarian regimes which derived their power from a diet of propaganda and lies. Even if the most efficient of secret police organisations cannot overcome open communication, because the secret police represent everything that has become outdated, and open communication represents everything that is new.

There has been another

change: the communications revolution has brought about changes in government. The totalitarian system has met with complete failure. Russia has despised of dictatorship, not because it has suddenly turned its back on the idea of dictatorship, but because dictatorship has so clearly failed in the very area in which it promised success: the field of economics. Hunger, not only repression; shortage, not only lack of choice, are consequences of dictatorship which the communist system cannot hide.

It has become clear that millions of people were killed in vain, millions of people futilely arrested. The sacrifices were in vain. They did not bring prosperity to either the people or to the state. And when the truth is concealed, or ignored, the regime becomes affected by sclerosis. And certainly the dictatorships of the right look like an insult to the human race: Mussolini lies in his grave as a buffoon, Hitler — a monster, and Khomeini — a nightmare.

We are witness not to the end of history, but to the end of violent repressive and dictatorial history.

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Today's economic system is run as one big, open continent. Both size and openness are advantages, and whoever wants to impose restraints will not be able to market. Any country that wants to shut itself in will find itself shut out by others. The world market today has more influence over the economy of a nation than its national government.

There has been yet another change. Since the source of wealth is no longer territory but knowledge, what role is there for the military in this modern world? Classical strategy has been buffeted on a number of fronts. Nearly everything which is important today is not attainable through military means — most of what armies could achieve has lost much of its significance. An army is not a university or a laboratory. It does not concern itself with basic research, nor with improving technology for its own sake. It does not produce and it does not distribute goods, and territorial expansion is no longer an important goal today.

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The elements of classical strategy have lost much of their value. Of what value is strategic depth when a modern rocket flies over mountains and rivers? Of what value is time — if the rockets swallow distances in minutes, or even seconds? And of what value is numerical superiority if nuclear or hydrogen warheads can wipe out major population centres? With modern weaponry it is impossible to achieve victory or, indeed, to justify it. It is possible only to destroy, and to be destroyed.

The price of modern weaponry has also become a critical factor. Submarines, aircraft, rockets, radar have all become so expensive that it is possible to lose a war without even conducting it. The price of building and maintaining a modern army can weaken the national economy, the same economy which must supply the resources needed for the existence of that army.

No wonder, then, that statesman have concluded that the best thing today is gradually to dismantle armaments, or most of them, and to establish relations between nations on a basis of demilitarisation and economic cooperation.

Finally, the change that has brought about all these other changes, the engine that drives the metamorphosis train, is without a doubt science. This engine has not yet come to a halt. The opposite is true: it is moving ahead at full speed. Although today we possess more knowledge than any previous generation, we also know that what we don't know is infinitely more than that which we do.

The world is no longer static. It does not live in caves. It is not afraid of mountains, it does not stop at borders and it is not bound by horizons. Even the atom is not the limit of the minuscule, nor is outer space the limit of the vast. And neither one of them is real.

There are some among us who claim that the world at large has changed whereas our own world has stayed just the way it was. That is utter nonsense. Even if there are some among us who have not changed, whether they know it or not they are living in a changed world.

Information from the outside world does teach into the Arab World. Young Arabs appreciate, more than ever, that another beira is necessary, to leap from yesterday's world to today's. There are more and more Arabs who understand that it is not sufficient to give birth and be born — it is also necessary to engage in physical, biological and spiritual pursuits. Television is not subordinate to the Jihad. It disseminates all the different religions and it makes comparisons between all regions.

Modern communications are undermining, and will continue to undermine, all the undemocratic regimes of the Middle East.

Tanks may be good in a display of might, but they do not provide food; they are, moreover, so expensive that they devour the little food there is. No matter how brightly they polish their swords, leaders must respond to the rumblings of empty bellies.

Sooner or later what happened



in Eastern Europe will happen in the Middle East.

Even today, more and more Arabs understand that the source of power and prosperity is science and education. The Arab World has huge territories — 10 million square kilometres in all. They remain ten million square kilometres of poverty. The huge natural population growth provides no compensation for the terrible poverty — it adds to it. If the population of Egypt has increased sevenfold in the twentieth century — has its power increased sevenfold, or has its poverty increased sevenfold?

The polarised world, the world that lived on the tension between the super-powers, ensured that our region would be polarised as well. The United States and the Soviet Union, each in its own way, attempted to acquire assets and establish advantages in this region. The U.S. tried to achieve this with an even-handed approach, by maintaining friendly ties with Israel while maintaining friendly relations with Arab states as well. The Soviet Union tried to achieve this through a one-sided policy by strengthening its relations with the Arab countries, even at the expense of relations with Israel.

The Soviet Union which has concluded that there is no longer any point in maintaining polarised international tensions, is the same Soviet Union which is trying to extricate itself from its previous one-sided Middle East policy. If Moscow is prepared to come to terms with the changes in its stature in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria or East Germany, why should it pay a high price to maintain its position in Syria, in Libya or in Ethiopia. The countries of the Middle East will compelled to confront themselves, their values and their resources. Solutions of local origin will have to be found for problems of local origin.

It will be difficult to count on manoeuvre and credit from outside, on one-sided political support, or on a flow of arms regulated by local caprices.

And, as each Arab state confronts itself, it will find out that constant growth in military strength, alongside large population growth, is a real threat to progress and to any regime which persists on that path.

The Middle East, if it wants to survive, must re-organise as an economic entity instead of continuing to have a military split personality. I believe — although at this moment it looks as distant and as unlikely as the vision of a new Europe looked two years ago — that what has happened in Europe will occur in the Middle

East: a process of demilitarisation in respect of foreign policy; a process of democratisation in internal affairs; a lowering of economic barriers; a process of increasing access to information.

I am convinced that the Middle East has no choice but to establish a common market, and to operate economically along the short and natural transportation routes through the region. Instead of trying to compete with powerful economic systems that are more advanced and distant, it will try to establish a large, advanced economy of its own.

We, of course, cannot dictate to the Arabs what to do, but it is imperative that Israel understand what is happening in the world and what is happening in our region. Israel can isolate itself, and turn into an antiquated but picturesque locality. Israel has always been a symbol of progress, and we must not allow this to take away from us by those who wish to freeze the situation as it is now. Yesterday's policies must not turn Israel into a backwater. With all the importance of what is happening in the Gaza Strip, what is happening in the world is more important. Gaza will not change the world.

It is not the number of kilometres alone which will determine Israel's fate, but people's attitudes, and the relationships between people which will determine whether Israel invests in science or in the intifada, in the absorption of immigrants or in pointless arguments over semantics.

We must decide today, and on a large scale. Our region will change for the better. It is in our best interests to draw our conclusions from these changes — and the sooner the better.

It is possible to open negotiations with the Palestinians. There is no point in putting this off because of fine points of semantics. The Middle East will, if it wants to survive, must re-organise as an economic entity instead of continuing to have a military split personality. I believe — although at this moment it looks as distant and as unlikely as the vision of a new Europe looked two years ago — that what has happened in Europe will occur in the Middle

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How Israelis identify with apartheid racists

By Efi Pallis

The following article is an address made by the author at a seminar held earlier this year under the sponsorship of the London-based Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding. The writer is an Israeli media consultant.

AS the relationship between Israel and South Africa becomes better known the same type of question keeps popping up in any discussion of it. How can Israelis, who themselves have suffered so much from racism, possibly condone their government's relationship with the apartheid regime? Has it no abhorrence at what is being done to South Africa's black population? Opponents of racism have tended to explain this fact mainly in two ways. Firstly, by the very substantial economic and military benefits that Israel derives from the relationship. Secondly, they note that Boers and Israeli Jews share a belief in their biblical right as God's "chosen people" to dispossess the indigenous population.

These are certainly relevant factors, but they don't really explain the intensity of the relationship. It is not all that religious, and given that not all of them are in fact materialistic: this is not quite enough. Yet the fact is that in Israel there has never been even one decent-sized demonstration against the visit of a South African politician, unlike in any western country. Instead almost every sector of Israeli society maintains some links with South Africa. I am not just talking about the government, business and the army: I am talking about the

remains, Israeli settlers are given three times as much per capita as are local Palestinians. The result of such policies is obvious: the progressive desertification of Palestinian agriculture, of what remains of it, and in many places severe shortages of good drinking water.

It is also difficult for Israelis to get worked up about South Africa's pass laws, given that Israel has something that is not entirely dissimilar. Under Israel's land laws, Palestinians from the occupied territories may work in Israel but they may not spend the night there. Permission to do that is only very rarely granted, usually in exchange for collaboration. Palestinians who observe this law may find themselves travelling up to three hours each way, which makes for a 14-hour working day. It is something that the ILO has condemned several times in its reports. Many Palestinians do break these laws, if only because their employers want them there very early in the morning at their beck and call. These workers sleep on the factory floor among the machines, in old air-raid shelters or in any old wooden shed. If they are caught by Israeli police, the punishment they can expect is three months in jail. There is no punishment for the employer, who may have provided the accommodation. The police may not prosecute them but the cases of being robbed and brutalised as a result of this vulnerable situation are so numerous that they are hardly mentioned in the Israeli press. To give you an idea,

An Arab writer speaks

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The writings of the internationally renowned Sudanese writer Tayeb Salih were well-received and accepted in the Arab World, although his work is considered as avant-garde by many.

Salih said he was "flattered" to realize that what he has written has been well-received all over the Arab World. The author, however, does not see his work as avant-garde.

"Maybe I'm a little adventurous," Salih, author of five books, told the Jordan Times on a recent working visit to Jordan. He added that he does not believe that he belongs to any category of writers because he just likes to write what he wishes to, without being a member of any school.

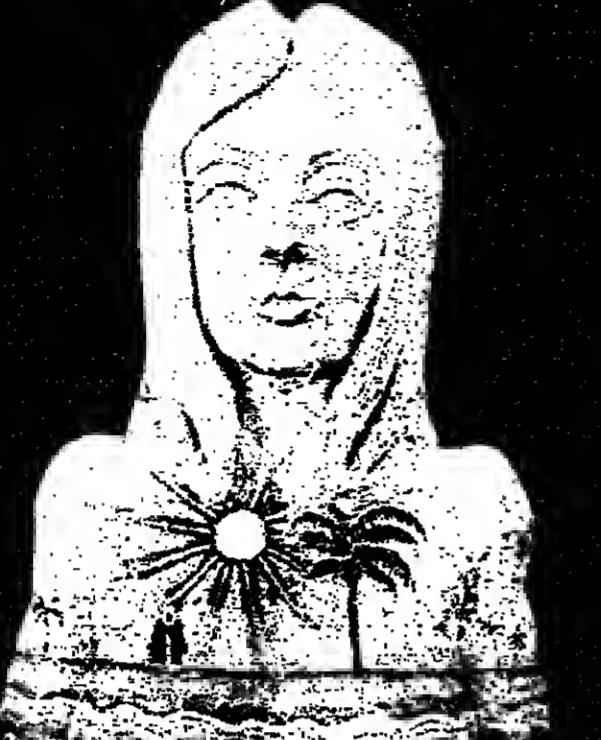
Some of Salih's books were translated to 20 languages, from English and German to Russian and Japanese. Among the translated works are the famous two novels, "Season of Migration to the North," and "The Wedding of Zein".

He was not sure why other nationalities took interest in his novels, but "I suppose other people find, in my modest effort, things which mean something to them. I think it is accepted that all humanity is the same at a certain level".

"So maybe readers in English, Russian or French have found in my work things that are either different from what they know

season of migration to the north

Tayeb Salih



but sufficiently interesting to them, or things they could identify with," Salih said.

Salih added that he does not concentrate on folklore. To him, the word has acquired a certain connotation which is somewhat exotic. He explained that he is

not only not interested in the exotic, but he is against it.

"I'm presenting a community in the northern Sudan as I know it, hoping that the particular, the specific, would have some universal meaning," he said.

The author explained that in

his writings, he is concerned with what goes on in the Sudan in particular and the Arab World in general, "and maybe with the meanings which concern people in the Third World at large".

Salih indicated that the problems and issues in the Third World are known: questions of development, how to cope with authority after the colonial regimes — issues that he believes concern the minds of writers in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

"The Wedding of Zein" was made into a film, which apparently won several prizes in different film festivals in Europe and North Africa. Did the film satisfy him as the writer of the novel?

It did, generally.

"The director of the film, a well-known Kuwaiti director in the Arab World and beyond, Khalid Siddiq, has to a great extent managed to interpret my ideas in film form. Naturally, the film emphasizes the visual part, probably the ideological part, meaning a part where the idea suffers a little," Salih said.

He added that a writer is always responsible for what he or she writes in print, and that whatever happens to the work in another medium is the responsibility of whoever has done it.

Salih is in the process of writing a "very long" novel, of which two parts have already been published.

The writer is currently working for UNESCO, and previously held a position at the BBC in London. He also worked in Qatar and Sudan.

"What I do besides writing is the main thing because most of my life I was an official of some sort, and held reasonably responsible and busy jobs. Now I earn my living from UNESCO because, as you know, an Arab writer cannot live on writing alone," he said.

For better, for worse

"ALL THE world loves a child"

— or so the saying goes. The reality is very different. In country after country, children are beaten, tortured, sexually abused, exploited in factories, abandoned, sold, conscripted into armies, sent across minefields, killed in armed conflicts.

Third, protection against violence, abuse, and exploitation in all its forms. The convention also covers the rights of mentally or physically disabled children, refugees, and those who are parentless or separated from their parents. It also recognizes that in some cases children need to be protected from their parents, and that some parents may be unable to take proper care of their children.

Every year, nearly 14 million children die of more mundane causes — hunger, disease, and neglect. Many millions more live on with poor health, stunted in mind and body. For lack of a decent education, millions of children are condemned, every year, to a lifetime of ignorance and deprivation.

The catalogue of children's suffering is a long and depressing one. But during the past decade public and official attitudes towards children have begun to change in many countries. Children's basic rights — to survival, health, education, and protection against abuse and exploitation — are beginning to find their way onto the agendas of the world's political leaders. A new ethic is emerging, says this year's State of the World's Children report from UNICEF, in which the health and well-being of a nation's children is regarded as the most significant measure of its level of development.

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expression, and freedom of conscience and religion. The convention also stipulates that parents shall give "due weight" to the views of children, in accordance with their age and maturity.

Third, protection against violence, abuse, and exploitation in all its forms. The convention also covers the rights of mentally or physically disabled children, refugees, and those who are parentless or separated from their parents. It also recognizes that in some cases children need to be protected from their parents, and that some parents may be unable to take proper care of their children.

Once ratified by 20 countries, the convention enters into force and becomes binding in each ratifying country. A committee on the rights of the child, composed of ten international experts serving in their personal capacities, will be established to monitor the steps taken in individual countries to observe the terms of the convention.

But there is a role for everyone in giving teeth to this new, internationally approved legal code of children's rights.

Political leaders and legal experts can ensure that their countries' own laws on children are brought into line with the convention.

Educationalists can incorporate the rights of children into school and college curricula.

The mass media can report on how far the convention is being observed, nationally, and focus attention on specific abuses.

Concerned individuals and organizations can lobby governments and supply the media with information.

Trade unions and employers' federations can negotiate agreements on the protection of children and mothers in the workplace.

Individual governments can establish a high-level authority, such as an ombudsman for children, to monitor and encourage the implementation of the convention.

"Like many other such documents in history," says UNICEF, "the convention is a statement of an ideal which few nations have achieved. But as more and more nations ratify its text and begin to enact its provisions into national law, and as press and public become more concerned to ensure its observance, it will gradually become the standard below which any civilised nation, rich or poor, will be ashamed to fall."

(Claude Sauvageot)

Conserving a heritage

WHEN PEOPLE come in to the new hotel and leisure complex being planned for a seaside plot on Aqaba Bay, they will see the old and the new together according to Yacht Club President, Mr. Anis Mouasher. The Yacht Club has been foresighted in incorporating the ruins of ancient Ayla, an Islamic port city that bustled with activity from 650 to 1,000 A.D., into its construction plans.

"There is a fine doorway," Mouasher elaborated, referring to the Hijaz Gate in the south eastern city wall, "that we may work into the design for the entranceway or the hotel lobby." As president of the Conservation Society, Mouasher said, "I want to conserve our heritage. It's our duty." In this case it seems, duty and conservation efforts will combine to produce a very special ambience in a complex. Mouasher refers to as the "heart of Aqaba." When complete, the hotel and its adjoining plaza of restaurants, coffee shops, and gift shops, will attract vacationers and business travellers in

search of evening entertainment after a day on Aqaba's seashore, or in meetings.

According to Dr. Bert DeVries, Director, the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) was the coordinator that brought together the diverse interest groups — the Yacht Club; the hotel builders, the Aqaba Regional Authority, and the Departments of Tourism and Antiquities, and the team of excavators led by Dr. Donald Whitcomb — with a stake in the Ayla site. "I think this role as coordinator has become an important part of ACOR's cultural resources programme," said Dr. DeVries. "We assist in the finding solutions to the problem of preserving the antiquities and having the property owner or owners satisfied that the property is being well used from the owners' point of view." To that end, ACOR does comprehensive design work for antiquities sites that include all surrounding properties, roadways, etc. so that the total en-

vironment works together.

ACOR and the Yacht Club very rapidly developed a cooperative understanding regarding their mutual interest in preserving versus destroying the antiquities. Dr. DeVries hailed the Yacht Club's flexibility in incorporating the antiquities into their plans for the site. Yacht Club plans have been revised somewhat since the discovery of Ayla, to blend the new construction with the seventh and tenth century ruins which extend into a corner of the Yacht Club property.

Because imminent development threatened the archaeological site, ACOR designated Ayla a high priority for excavation and study in 1987, according to Dr. DeVries. That season's efforts produced artifacts exhibited first in Chicago, and now in the care of the Department of

Antiquities pending their installation in the Visitor's Centre at the Sharif Hussein house to open soon in Aqaba.

The ruins, most of which lie on the property adjoining the Yacht Club land, have been partially excavated and restored by archaeologists associated with ACOR and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Oriental Research Institute in Chicago. Because the native granite and sandstone walls deteriorate rapidly when exposed, major restoration work including removing rotting masonry, replacing fallen stones, and capping the walls with cement was undertaken in 1988. The city's Sea Gate was also excavated during that season. Extensive excavation, clearing of sand, restoration of walls, and installation of visitor signs was carried out in 1989,

One of the most explicit expressions of this new ethic is the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has now been presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

The covenant is the final outcome of ten years of painstaking negotiations between scores of governments, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations. It is, says the UNICEF report, "the first agreement among the nations of the world on the legally defined rights of the child."

The convention covers three main areas:

First, the right to life — the most basic of all human rights. The convention recognizes the child's right to adequate food, water, health care, and shelter.

Second, the right to develop one's potential — through education, freedom of information and

"After ten years of detailed negotiations, the Convention on the Rights of the Child has finally been brought before the General Assembly of the United Nations. Setting minimum standards of protection for children's survival, health and education, as well as providing explicit protection against exploitation at work, against physical or sexual abuse, and against the degradations of war, the Convention is the first agreement among the nations of the world on the legally defined rights of the child. Like many such documents in history, it is the statement of an ideal. But as more and more nations enact its provisions into national law, and as press and public become more concerned to ensure its observance, it will gradually become the standard below which any civilised nation, rich or poor, will be ashamed to fall."

UNICEF feature.

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Wall Street seers express Pessimism

NEW YORK (AP) — Pessimism is the message for 1990 from Wall Street, with major brokerages forecasting an economic downturn and some an outright recession.

In their annual year-ahead forecasts, the firms that both engineer multibillion-dollar deals and advise individual investors aren't in total agreement, but none is optimistic.

The consensus view of Wall Street's seers is that slow economic growth, a weak dollar overseas and slumping corporate profits will combine to retard the economy and the stock market at the start of the new decade.

Kidder, Peabody and Co. predicts very slow growth in the range of one per cent but not a "dictionary definition" of a recession. The firm's inflation estimates vary from just over three per cent to over four per cent, on the low side of Wall Street expectations.

Stefan Abrams, Kidder's chief investment strategist, said a key

standard and Poor's 500 stock index, significantly lower than firms' predictions in the \$25 range.

"We believe that profits have already peaked and that consensus expectations are too high," Coben writes.

Drexel's recommendation: Buy stocks in companies whose earnings and revenues are not likely to be harmed by an economic slowdown or recession, such as soft drinks, pharmaceuticals and emerging industries such as biotechnology.

Also contributing to a recession, Drexel says, is a declining money flow due to factors such as bearish foreign sentiment on the dollar, weakness in domestic demand for goods, lower corporate profits and soft real estate prices.

Merrill Lynch and Co., the largest Wall Street firm, is slightly more sanguine. "We should escape a full-fledged recession, but it may be a close call," chief economist Donald Straszheim wrote last week.

Returns on stocks should be below average next year, Merrill predicted, with a change in market leadership to capital goods and energy stocks from consumer and financial issues. Its recommendation: Companies offering growth potential.

Abby Joseph Coben, Drexel's chief investment strategist, forecast that corporate profits will decline to earnings per share of \$22 and 50 cents for the Stan-

Financiero said.

Jacques Rogozinski, head of treasury department's advisory council, said the Mexican government has sold 619 companies out of the 1,155 it owned in 1982, and hopes to sell another 177 companies, 42 of them in the coming year, the report said.

Other companies the government hopes to spin off in the future include textiles, sulfur, metal foundries, agricultural products and fisheries, the report said.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who took office Dec. 1, has made selling off these money-losing state companies a centrepiece of his administration's programme to revive the stagnant economy.

This year the economy is registering growth for the first time in seven years.

Earlier this year, the government liberalised regulations on company shareholdings, allowing greater foreign investment. Some sectors such as the petroleum industry will be retained by the government as monopolies, but others, like telephones and telecommunications are now open for outside participation.

Meanwhile, Mexico's private foreign debt decreased from \$23.9 billion to \$7.1 billion from 1982-88 by dipping into their foreign reserves, while the government's foreign debt grew by 35 per cent, the independent newspaper Excelsior said.

saying in a "Happy New Year" memo to staffers that "before spring, lower interest rates and the outlook for upturn in the economy could be fuel for the next leg of the bull market."

Kerschner predicted the stock market could end 1990 10 per cent to 15 per cent higher than at the start.

The rapidly changing political

situation in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was a wild card cited by several economists.

The Soviet Union needs Western technology to rebuild its economy, they said, and faster growth in Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia could benefit the U.S. economy.

Some economists say bonds should benefit because lower

U.S. defence spending should reduce the federal deficit, and therefore reduce interest rates, while stocks should gain based on both lower interest rates and faster global growth.

"It's all very bullish for bonds and stocks — as long as perestroika continues," Kerschner wrote, referring to Soviet restructuring.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1989

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Jordan ships more cement to Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — The second shipment of 25,000 tonnes of loose cement left Aqaba port Monday en route to Yemen Arab Republic (YAR). The shipment is part of 150,000 tonnes of cement to be exported to YAR in implementation of an agreement concluded between both Jordan and Yemen.

CBJ promotes export financing

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Mohammad Saleh Horani Wednesday opens a two-day symposium on export credit guarantee and finance. The symposium will be organised by the CBJ in cooperation with the International Trade Centre and the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan. Taking part in the symposium are representatives from the various ministries and departments concerned in addition to representatives from commercial banks and financial institutions, insurance companies and exporting companies. The symposium is designed to promote exports and to enhance the competitive capacity of these companies.

Financial conference reviews 8 studies

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the first conference on the role of accountancy and financial and banking operations in economic development Tuesday discussed eight working papers on unifying accounting terms, evaluation of capital expenditure, role of accountancy in developing local investments, the effect of financial policies on economic development, the role of the Audit Commission in monitoring public funds and assessing the efficiency of the performance and a study on rationalisation of consumption.

Jordan, Sudan sign new trade protocol

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Monday signed a trade protocol covering trade exchange, transport as well as scientific and technical cooperation. The two sides agreed to increase trade exchange in 1989-1990 up to \$60 million on equal basis. Furthermore \$6 million will be allocated for holding exhibitions at the Jordanian Cultural Centre in Khartoum and the Sudanese Cultural Centre in Amman. An additional \$4 million will also be allocated for specialised exhibitions to be held in both countries in 1990. The Sudanese side also emphasised its desire to import all its needs of cement from Jordan. The two sides stressed the importance of launching a maritime line between the ports of the two countries and requested national maritime companies to present their views in this regard. The two sides also stressed the importance of utilising loans given by the Islamic Bank for Development and the Arab Monetary Fund in financing imports and tradings.

Housing Bank secures high ranking

AMMAN (Petra) — The Housing Bank ranked in 59th position among the first 100 top banks in the Arab World in terms of 1988 financial results, according to a report by the Arab Banking Gazette. The report said that the classification of banks was published in the Euromoney magazine in London last month. It said that the assessment was conducted on the criteria of each bank's holding of American dollars and the volume of its operations. The Housing Bank secured the remarkable position despite the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. currency.

'Optimum reorganisation' sacrifices Chinese women

BEIJING (AP) — Women are being laid off and poorly treated under current state efforts to streamline factory employees, according to a survey taken by the China Women's Journal.

The survey taken in northeast China's Liaoning province found that many women are being laid off by factories that consider them surplus or redundant, the journal said in a report carried by the official China Daily.

It said women were the victims of "optimum reorganisation" of the labour force, a Chinese euphemism for laying off workers.

Very few people are ever fired in the nation's state-run enterprises and laid-off workers usually receive their base pay. However, only 4.5 per cent of the laid-off women continue to get bonuses, a substantial part of their incomes, and welfare benefits.

The report said many women were assigned to unsuitable jobs under the old rigid employment system and thus were the first to be laid-off. At the Benxi steel company, where 36.4 per cent of 140,000 employees are women, 721 women have been forced to take long leaves because they lacked "suitable" work.

A investigation made earlier this year by the All-China National Labour Force Commission found that enterprises considered 20 per cent of their employees to be surplus or redundant, and 64 per cent of those were women. Women make up about 37 per cent of the urban workforce.

Many enterprises are also now refusing to hire women because their maternity leave and early retirement drive up welfare costs.

The Shanghai Women's Association, in another recent survey of 400 companies in China's largest city, found that six per cent of women have lost their jobs as a result of the drive to eliminate surplus workers.

British water sell-off makes big splash on stock exchange

LONDON (R) — Shares in 10 newly privatised water companies in England and Wales made a big splash when they started trading in London Tuesday as some of the 2.7 million small investors who bought stock reaped hefty instant profits.

The controversial sell-off of the companies was the latest in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's sweeping privatisation programme and the third biggest after British Petroleum and British Gas. Water utilities in Northern Ireland and Scotland were not included in the offer.

The £2.5 billion (\$8.4 billion) flotation was 5.7 times subscribed. Delighted government officials hailed the demand for the shares as a reaffirmation of popular capitalism.

It was at one time the most unpopular of Thatcher's privatisations because feelings ran high about putting the water authorities in private hands.

But an attractive offer price, a promise of lucrative dividends and generous incentives, coupled with easy payment, turned what some analysts had predicted would be a potential flop into a roaring success.

Northumbrian Water Group PLC was the star performer surging to £1.70 (\$2.72) compared with the £1 (\$1.60) first instalment for which the government sold each share. It was buoyed by takeover speculation.

Other water companies made 40 pence (64 cents) or so on paper for their new owners, but many investors could not take profits immediately as share certificates will only be sent out on Dec. 20.

Any purchaser of the new shares can trade them before or after receives the certificate but if there is a problem with the original application or a reduced allocation of shares, then the

Hotels regard human resources as the single most important issue they face, the report said.

Despite advances in technology, tourism relied heavily on a relatively young and unskilled work force, making training the key to the industry's success, the report said.

The new committee reflects the importance of tourism which the ILO expects to surpass all other sectors in economic importance by the end of the century and now employs some 100 million workers, or 6.3 per cent of total world employment.



AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, December 12, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		
Swiss franc	404.0	408.0
French franc	106.8	107.9
Japanese yen (for 100)	444.9	449.3
Dutch guilder	323.7	326.9
Swedish krona	101.7	102.7
Italian lira (for 100)	49.5	50.0
Belgian franc (for 10)	172.5	175.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.		
One Sterling	1,602.50	
One U.S. dollar	1,162.53	
	1,754.07	
	1,979.80	
	1,585.95	
	36.85/88	
	5,995.00/6,000	
	1298.1299	
	144.2737	
	6,315.00/200	
	6,735.00/400	
	6,815.00/200	
One ounce of gold	415.90/416.40	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices drifted downward in listless trading despite a sharply higher gold sector. The All Ordinaries index dropped 3.1 to 1,612.7.
TOKYO — Prices fluctuated in a narrow range on a themeless day, but one trader said the market remained strong. The Nikkei index gained 50.86 to 37,803.53.
HONG KONG — The market broke out of a prolonged spell of inertia, chiefly as a result of a high-level U.S. mission to Peking. The Hang Seng index rose 46.25 to 2,809.58, its biggest single-day gain since Nov. 9.
SINGAPORE — Buying by selected institutions and speculators pushed up prices to a second successive post-1987 high and one broker said sentiment remained bullish. The Straits Times industrial index gained 6.27 to 1,454.81.
BOMBAY — Share prices ended mixed in volatile trading for the new account after the exchange authorities halved deposit margins on sales to 15 per cent on 42 leading stocks.
FRANKFURT — West German shares ended mixed as the market's consolidation continued amid waning volume. The DAX index closed at 1,653.07, down 0.65.
ZURICH — Swiss shares closed lower in thin trading. "Nothing happened and volume was very thin," one dealer said. The Swiss performance index closed at 1,136.33.
PARIS — French share prices were drifting in very thin trading by midday with all the action centred on isolated special situation stocks. The CAC index was 2.6 points down at 1,968.43.
LONDON — Prices were firm with activity dominated by the water issue. The premiums on the 10 water authorities' shares, which ranged from 33 to 58 per cent, helped the market gain early on but investors were cautious ahead of British and U.S. economic data later this week. By 1630 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 11 points at 2,362.4.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME	
by Henri Arnould and Bob Lee	
BISCA	
TILUQ	
DYOMLE	
CAPTER	
Answer here: <input type="text"/> OF <input type="text"/>	(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumble: VIPER NOISY PEPSIN LICHEN	
Answer: He tried to kiss her, but she'd have this—NONE OF HIS LIP	

Hong Kong begins forced repatriation of boat people

HONG KONG (AP) — Security forces bundled 51 Vietnamese onto a chartered jet before dawn Tuesday and flew them to Hanoi in the first forced repatriation of boat people, triggering a chorus of international outrage.

But the colonial government said sending home Vietnamese who cannot prove they face political persecution was more humane than keeping them "endlessly" in this British colony. Hong Kong houses about 56,000 Vietnamese in squalid camps where violence and malnutrition are rife.

The Cathay Pacific Tri-Star carrying eight Vietnamese men, 17 women and 26 children arrived in Hanoi at 6:30 a.m. (2230 GMT) after a flight that reportedly went without incident.

The boat people were taken to a transit centre where they will be processed before returning to the provinces for job placement and training, a diplomatic source in Hanoi said.

Government-funded radio television Hong Kong, quoting an unidentified Vietnamese Foreign

Ministry official, said several thousand more people will be returned within weeks.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government ignored last-minute pleas from the United States and Canada not to go ahead with the programme.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International said it had appealed to no avail to Hong Kong's governor, Sir David Wilson.

Stanley Clinton Davis, chairman of the British Refugee Council, described the pre-dawn round-up as "so reminiscent of the practices indulged in by tyrannies over the ages — the Nazis, the Communists, South Africa and others."

As the operation began at 3 a.m., Vietnamese screamed for help from the windows at the Phoenix House detention centre. Some hung a sign through the metal bars, reading: Where is your humanity?

The boat people were quickly pulled away by police equipped with helmets, shields, revolvers and batons. Sobs could be heard from the cells; some Vietnamese held their heads in their hands.

"I don't want to go back to Vietnam," shouted one woman in broken cantonese, the local dialect of this British colony, as she waved her hands in despair.

About 200 police and corrections officers were involved in the operation, outnumbering the Vietnamese almost 4-1. The government said no force was used.

The government said the expelled Vietnamese were illegal "economic migrants" who could not prove they had fled their homeland because of a fear of persecution.

"In our view it is more humane to go ahead with the repatriation of those who have been through the whole process of screening and appeal than to leave them waiting endlessly in camps," said a government statement.

It said Vietnam has given the Hong Kong government, "firm assurances that those returning would not be punished for having left clandestinely" and that their return would initially be monitored by the British embassy in

Hanoi.

Hong Kong would like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to monitor the returned boat people, but the relief agency Tuesday called the mandatory repatriation programme "premature" and refused to participate.

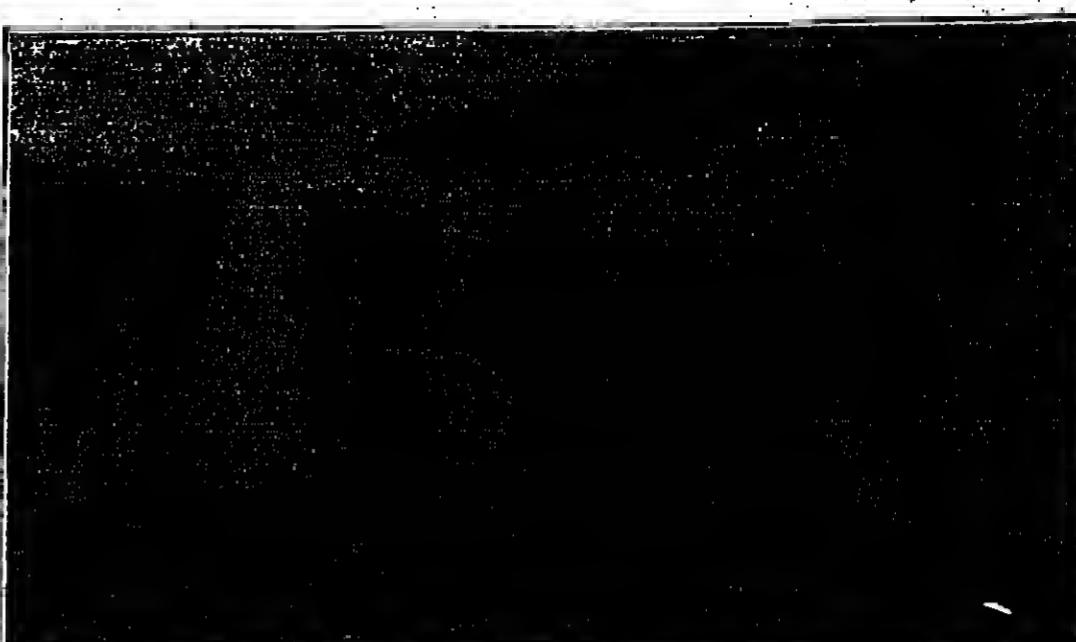
The UNHCR has coordinated a programme of voluntary repatriation in which 637 Vietnamese have returned to their homeland since March. They represent only a fraction of the 44,000 boat people who face possible deportation unless they qualify as refugees.

So far, nearly 6,800 Vietnamese screened by Hong Kong immigration officials have failed to receive refugee status, compared with just more than 700 who qualified.

Opponents of forced repatriation have argued that it could trigger violence in the detention centres and lead some there to try suicide. Vietnamese already have staged hunger strikes and demonstrations to protest being sent home against their will. Several bloody riots have broken out.

"In our view it is more humane to go ahead with the repatriation of those who have been through the whole process of screening and appeal than to leave them waiting endlessly in camps," said a government statement.

It said Vietnam has given the Hong Kong government, "firm assurances that those returning would not be punished for having left clandestinely" and that their return would initially be monitored by the British embassy in



WEAPONS DESTROYED: A steam roller recovered from left-wing Sinhalese rebels fighting creases rows of grass at the Sri Lankan army's headquarters in Colombo. The weapons had been destroyed in this manner.

Aquino aide warns of further attempts

Philippine troops raid homes of coup suspects

MANILA (Agencies) — Government soldiers Tuesday raided the houses of a suspected leader and a suspected sympathizer of last week's coup attempt and seized ammunition and radio equipment, the military reported. The suspects were not in their homes.

Meanwhile, the state-run news agency reported that between 300 million and 500 million pesos (\$14.3 million and \$23.8 million) worth of military equipment was destroyed in the seven-day mutiny.

"The rebels even received their Christmas bonuses ahead of our officers and men," Biazon told reporters.

President Corazon Aquino's national security adviser warned Tuesday there could be a new army coup in the Philippines if government and military leaders ignore rebel appeals for political and economic reform.

"I cannot rule out the possibility of another coup before President Aquino's term of office expires in 1992 if we refuse to face problems squarely and do something about them," Rafael Heto, a former defence minister, said in an interview.

Military sources said they had evidence that some politicians were directly involved in the latest revolt in which 119 people were killed and about 600 wounded.

Brigadier-General Rodolfo

Biazon, responsible for Manila's defences, said the putsch was financed by people "already named."

He said it cost from 300 million to 800 million pesos (\$14 million to \$37 million). A rebel general who led an assault at Camp Aguinaldo military headquarters in Manila was paid 25 million pesos (\$1.1 million).

The rebels even received their Christmas bonuses ahead of our officers and men," Biazon told reporters.

Aquino last week linked her estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel; former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and her wealthy cousin, industrialist Eduardo Cojuangco, to the plot.

Enrile and Laurel denied the accusations.

An officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said raiders seized 150 rounds of M-16 and 50 rounds of Uzi submachine-gun ammunition from the house of former army Major Lyle Tugbang near the Manila airport in suburban Paranaque.

Soldiers also found radio equipment and a list of radio frequencies, including those of 32 metropolitan Manila police stations and the Manila Bulletin, the



Joyride in a sheriff's car

FORT COLLINS, Colorado (AP) — A woman stole a patrol car from a sheriff's deputy who had stopped on the highway to help her boyfriend with a stalled car, authorities said. Beverly Watt, 29, got into the car and headed north, leaving behind a confused boyfriend and a bewildered deputy, said Sheriff spokeswoman Laurie Kith. Watt was arrested a short time after the incident following a chase to Cheyenne, Wyoming, that ended in a collision between the sheriff's patrol car and a Wyoming highway patrol vehicle, Kith said. Watt was admitted to a Cheyenne hospital for psychiatric observation, Kith said, adding that charges were pending. Deputy Bill Erickson had stopped to talk with the stranded driver, Johnathan Crosey, when Watt, Crosey's girlfriend, "jumped inside the sheriff's department vehicle and locked all of the doors," Kith said. "The next thing we knew, she was talking on his radio." "She was very belligerent and using foul language. She wasn't very nice at all."

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.
AMSTERDAM	03	32
ATHENS	05	41
BAHRAIN	16	61
BANGKOK	20	68
BUENOS AIRES	20	68
CARIO	15	59
CHICAGO	47	19
COPENHAGEN	06	28
FRANKFURT	04	25
GENEVA	02	28
HONG KONG	16	32
ISRAEL	22	35
LONDON	02	36
LOS ANGELES	03	47
MADRID	07	45
MECCA	21	70
MONTREAL	17	37
MOSCOW	12	16
NEW DELHI	09	48
NEW YORK	01	31
PARIS	07	30
ROME	01	34
SINGAPORE	07	30
TOKYO	08	26
VIENNA	05	23

Comoros mercenaries demand French asylum

DZAOUDZI, Mayotte Island (Agencies) — White mercenaries who have seized control of the Comoros Islands are demanding asylum in France, presenting Paris with an embarrassing political problem, diplomats said Tuesday.

The diplomats in Moroni, capital of the Indian Ocean islands, said the demand had deadlocked negotiations for the peaceful departure of the 30-odd soldiers of fortune while France considered its response.

France and South Africa had been closely associated with the hired guns but turned against them after the assassination of President Ahmad Abdallah Nov. 26. It is widely believed the mercenaries killed him.

The two countries are now discreetly negotiating for the departure of the men, most of whom are French.

"These guys want a safe passage back to France," one diplomat said in a telephone interview from the French island of Mayotte.

The leader of the mercenaries, Bob Denard, is wanted in France on criminal charges in connection with a mercenary attack on the West African state of Benin in 1977 and at least one of the mercenaries is a French army deserter.

The mercenaries form the officer corps of the 650-strong presidential guard, which has disbanded the regular army and is now in charge of the civilian government, nominally led by Interim President Said Mohammad Djohar.

Residents in Moroni said Tuesday the white walls of the small palm fringed port city had been covered overnight with black graffiti.

Slogans such as "Bob Denard out," "11 years of corrupt government," and "out with the mercenaries" had been daubed all over town, they said.

A French military task force has gathered in Mayotte, the only island in the Comoros archipelago which decided to remain French when the others unilaterally declared independence in 1975, to intervene in the Comoros if necessary.

A military spokesman said Monday the task force of four ships, four transport planes and five helicopters carrying 400 marine commandos and paratroopers, was ready to move into action at a moment's notice.

But he stressed it had been assembled to evacuate the 1,600 French residents in the Comoros if necessary, not to take on the mercenaries.

"It is not a question of 400 French soldiers against 30 mercenaries," he said.

Bush, catching flak for China move, defends stand

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has defended his decision to send two top aides to Beijing over the weekend, and he said he would "keep looking for ways to find common ground" with Chinese leaders despite unhappiness with their crackdown against pro-democracy forces.

Bush stressed Monday that the trip by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and a top State Department aide did not amount to normalization of relations. He said those who suggest otherwise "simply do not know what they are talking about."

Bush, who has been criticised by majority opposition Democrats in Congress for sending the two senior advisers to China, said he took the action because, "I do

not want to isolate the Chinese people."

Bush said the United States maintains contacts with several countries that have "egregious records on human rights." As for this spring's bloody crackdown in Beijing, Bush said, "the Chinese know they have to address themselves to the problems that were inherent in this episode."

The president made his comments to a group of editorial writers gathered in an auditorium across the street from the White House.

He opened the session with a review of his first year as president. Citing an improved U.S.-Soviet relationship and other developments, he said, "I'm not overly satisfied but I think generally the first year has gone pretty well."

C. American summit calls on Salvador rebels to demobilise

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (Agencies) — Central American presidents Tuesday called for the demobilisation of El Salvador's leftist guerrillas and said Nicaragua should stop providing them with arms.

It was the strongest call in two years of summit meetings for an end to the bitter civil war that flared with renewed vigour in El Salvador in recent weeks with a rebel urban offensive.

The final summit communiqué urged the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, (FMLN) to cease all operations that affect the civilian population and incorporate themselves into the peaceful political process.

It also asked U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to try to restart peace talks between the rebels and El Salvador's rightist government.

The rebels launched an urban offensive Nov. 11 that has

claimed hundreds of civilian lives and prompted El Salvador to suspend relations with Nicaragua, which it accuses of arming the rebels.

The communiqué said the FMLN is a fundamental element in overcoming the crisis that the peace process faces," the communiqué said.

The final document urged the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) set up by the United Nations and the Organisation of American States to supervise the disbandment of the contras to extend its role to demobilisation of the FMLN crashed in El Salvador.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega agreed to suspend his World Court case accusing Honduras of harbouring Nicaraguan rebels, smoothing a dispute that led Honduran President Jose Azcuna to leave the Central American summit for several hours late Monday. The six-month suspension was included in the final communiqué.

"The start of the demobilisation process of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families," the communiqué said.

'Minister of cocaine' extradited

MIAMI (R) — A former Bolivian interior minister, dubbed by U.S. authorities as the "minister of cocaine," was handed over to U.S. drug agents in La Paz and flown to Miami Monday to face trial on drug trafficking charges.

Officials said Luis Arce Gomez, a former army colonel who had been on the run since the early 1980s, arrived at Miami international airport late Monday night and was taken under heavy guard to a nearby prison, a law-enforcement source said.

"Let them propose an honourable exit," he was quoted as saying. "If they pay us indemnities, if they find a guarantee for our soldiers, then it would be with heavy heart but we would leave. But if they try to intimidate us, with planes flying overhead and grandiose preparations at Mayotte, that's ridiculous."

He added: "I cannot rule out the possibility of another coup before President Aquino's term of office expires in 1992 if we refuse to face problems squarely and do something about them," Rafael Heto, a former defence minister, said in an interview.

Military sources said they had evidence that some politicians were directly involved in the latest revolt in which 119 people were killed and about 600 wounded.

Brigadier-General Rodolfo

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INDIRECT (Thru the Branch)

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- LETTERS OF CREDIT
- GUARANTEES
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